WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THURSDAY, THE 15TH NOVEMBER, 2007*

New Sports Policy

*1. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new sports policy taking into consideration the poor infrastructure for the development of Indian sports, particularly hockey, football, wrestling and kabaddi etc. at the grass-root level;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the share of Central assistance to be provided to the States for the purpose; and

(c) if the new sports policy has not so far been formulated, by when that is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the instance of the Cabinet, the Ministry has framed a draft Comprehensive National Sports Policy which has also been posted on its website since 26th July, 2007. The draft policy takes into account the best international practices for the comprehensive development of sports, keeping our requirements and priorities in mind. Appropriate steps shall be taken under the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), where 'in principle' approval has been received from the Planning Commission to provide for the development of sports infrastructure at the Panchayat level. The Planning Commission have indicated a tentative allocation of Rs. 1500 crores for PYKKA for the Eleventh Plan period against the requirement of Rs. 2,526 crore projected by the Ministry. The total requirement projected over the Eleventh and Twelfth Plan periods is Rs. 6,188 crore. The Scheme is proposed to be implemented through the State Governments.

One element of the draft policy is the question of shifting 'Sports' from the State to the Concurrent List in the expectation that this would facilitate Central assistance for the sports infrastructure in the States, which was suspended from 01.04.2005 except for completing commitment already made. This is being reviewed in the context of the Eleventh Plan. The Financial allocation for the implementation of the new Policy will follow the adoption of the draft by the Cabinet.

(c) Consultations with all stakeholders on the draft Policy have been completed and, based on the inputs received, the draft is being finalized for submission to the Cabinet.

Nuclear Deal

*2. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our agreement on nuclear deal is being implemented by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government in this direction?

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*The sitting of Rajya Sabha on Thursday, 15th November, 2007 was adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed Shri Jana Krishnamurthy K., a sitting member. Answers to questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Monday, the 19th November, 2007.